SUPPLEMENT TO THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

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WAR NOTICES

Medical Officers and Other Personnel of Mobile Units

Changes in the present method of manning mobile first-aid posts when a red warning is received are announced in the following circular letter which has been sent by the Ministry of Health to all scheme-making authorities.

"1. I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to Circular 2113 of August 5, para. 4 of which stated that in the case of mobile first-aid posts doctors should attend automatically whenever a red warning is received in the district. Experience gained during the past few weeks has indicated that owing to the frequency of red warnings this requirement may in certain areas impose an undue and unnecessary strain upon medical personnel.

2. It appears to the Minister to be undesirable to insist in all areas on the automatic attendance of the doctor at the mobile unit whenever a red warning is received, and the Minister considers that in general it will be sufficient for the doctor to be summoned from the Control Centre when his services are required. It would be an essential part of such an arrangement that the doctor should be readily accessible by telephone or otherwise at any time of the day or night, or, if he is not immediately available, that the services of a deputy can be obtained without delay. It would of course be necessary for the Control Centre to make clear whether he is to proceed to the hospital or other place at which the mobile first-aid post is stationed, or whether he should join the post at a specified rendezvous arranged between the Control Centre and the other personnel of the post.

3. In London and other populous areas which are being constantly bombed the Minister considers that the arrangements set out above should be modified to the extent that one mobile first-aid post in the scheme-making authority's area should be completely manned on the red warning, if the Ministry's Senior Regional Officer after consulting the Regional Commissioner considers this course desirable. Other mobile first-aid posts in the area would then be manned when necessary by the method described in para. 2. Where the automatic manning of one post on the red warning is likely to impose an undue strain on the doctor attached to that post, the authority might arrange a rota system under which the post is manned in successive weeks by doctors attached to the various posts, fixed or mobile, in the area, as suggested in para. 5 of Circular 2113.

4. The Minister is anxious to have information as to the manner and extent to which mobile first-aid posts have been used since intensive raids began. I am accordingly to inquire whether you could furnish at your convenience a short report as regards the operation of the mobile units belonging to your authority since the beginning of September."

Emergency Supplies of Petrol

In a certain area recently doctors had great difficulty in obtaining petrol because their local garages had run out of supplies owing to delay in the delivery by post of orders to the Petroleum Board depot. As a result of inquiries instigated by the honorary secretary of the Local Medical War Committee it has been ascertained that the instructions issued by the Petroleum Department to local authorities in connexion with their civil defence functions allow them to furnish, in any grave emergency, petrol from their A.R.P. reserves to maintain any essential services. This would include an issue to doctors in a serious emergency such as that described above.

CENTRAL MEDICAL WAR COMMITTEE,
B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

Correspondence

Medical Calling-up

SIR,—Being one of the rather "unpleasant young persons" referred to in "Territorial's" letter (*Supplement*, October 26, p. 35) I should like to make a few remarks. I am one of a partnership of three. The senior partner, being in the same position as "Territorial," was called up in August, 1939, leaving myself and my partner, both young and not very experienced men, in charge of a busy general practice. In addition, we had to do work for other men who were called up.

Perhaps we have not enough of the financial acumen of which we are accused, because, especially during last winter, we had to work extremely hard and earned less money. But I do think that we are of some service to the country, both in looking after large numbers of patients, some of whom were suffering from the loss of their own doctors, and in attending to air-raid casualties in first-aid work. Now we are faced with a further drop in income on account of the evacuation of large numbers of our patients. There are some doctors who have not joined the Protection of Practices Scheme who, I believe, are doing very well financially. Many who have joined the scheme are doing a lot of work for small pay.

With reference to the difficulty of getting doctors to join the Services, I know of several men who volunteered at the outbreak of war and before, who have not yet been called up. Surely there is plenty of important and even dangerous work to be done in civilian practice, and civilians are likely to require more attention than ever during this coming winter. Altogether, from our personal experience, it is not all "beer and skittles" staying at home.—I am, etc.,

Lee, S.E.12, Nov. 1. N. W. IRISH.

SIR,—I feel it a great pity that "Territorial" (*Supplement*, October 26, p. 35) did not stop to think twice before writing the rather smug effusion. I should like to ask him the following questions:

(*a*) Where on earth did he read of "the difficulties of getting doctors to join up"? One hears on all sides the very reverse—that is, the difficulty of getting into the Services, the closure of Army lists, the waiting lists, etc.

(*b*) Does he candidly think that medical service is any the more meritorious because it is given in uniform? Or, to put it more bluntly, does he really think that he is giving any better service by being in a uniform in the Middle East than that given by his colleagues in civilian clothes in the E.M.S. on the East Coast of this island, especially in the London area?

(*c*) Does he realize that even a lieutenant in the Army is being paid more than a specialist in the E.M.S.? Surely this fact makes his remark about "financial acumen" seem not only out of place but also in rather bad taste? He also appears to forget that in the Army one gets promotion with increase in salary, and is also due for a gratuity at the end of hostilities, whereas in the E.M.S. none of these things seems to have been thought of. The officers in the E.M.S. do not expect any thanks or kudos for their services, as they consider that they are only doing their best and what is, after all, their duty, but they do not expect to have mud thrown at them by "rather unpleasant young persons" in the Services.

East Coast Town, Oct. 29. "CIVILIAN."

Rank in the Services

SIR,—I was interested to read a letter in the *Supplement* of July 6 (p. 1) by Dr. Arthur Beauchamp on this subject, and would like to state a view held by many Regular officers. We rather bitterly resent the granting of field rank to officers "who have only been in the Army five minutes" on the grounds that they hold specialist qualifications. In peacetime a specialist appointment carries no particular rank with it, although it does bring extra pay. This latter is fair enough. A doctor may join the Regular Army for various reasons: because he enjoys the life generally or perhaps from a taste for administrative and preventive medicine. Under present conditions he is liable to become suddenly junior to a colleague years younger in age, professionally, and in Army seniority, and who, in many cases, obviously has no experience in dealing with troops, commanding men, or comporting himself as an officer. Hitherto field rank has meant something; now it means little. I believe I am right in saying that this irritating anomaly did not exist in the last war.—I am, etc.,

Oct. 16. CAPTAIN, R.A.M.C.

Naval, Military, and Air Force Appointments

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE

Surgeon Commander H. L. Douglas has been placed on the Retired List.

Surgeon Lieut.-Commander J. W. L. Crosfill to be Surgeon Commander.

Surgeon Lieut.-Commander (Emergency) E. D. Caldwell has been transferred to the Permanent List.

Surgeon Lieuts. A. J. Glazebrook, H. G. Silvester, and D. Simpson to be Surgeon Lieutenant-Commanders.

Surgeon Lieut. D. W. Pratt has been transferred to the Emergency List, and promoted to the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander (Emergency).

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

The following Surgeon Lieutenants have been transferred to the Permanent List: F. W. Baskerville, W. H. C. M. Hamilton, J. P. T. Wellwood, B. M. Goldsworthy, S. Miles, W. S. Miller, T. A. Turnbull, B. Ridgeway, and C. J. Robarts.

Probationary Temporary Surgeon Lieut. R. J. J. Lockhart to be Temporary Surgeon Lieutenant.

To be Temporary Surgeon Lieutenants: V. S. Shuttleworth, J. L. W. Davies, and L. J. Lancett-Edwards.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES

Colonel L. Murphy, D.S.O., late R.A.M.C., has retired on retired pay.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Rowe, M.C., from R.A.M.C., to be Colonel.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Major (Temporary Lieut.-Colonel) E. M. Townsend, M.C., to be Lieutenant-Colonel

Major J. F. Bourke, M.C., has retired on retired pay on account of ill-health.

Captains (Acting Major) I. H. C. Morton, (Temporary Major) W. R. M. Drew, and (Temporary Major) A. Macdonald to be Majors.

The following Captains (short service officers) have been appointed to permanent commissions, retaining their present seniority: J. L. Gordon, S. J. Meyersohn, (Temporary Major) G. C. Dansey-Browning, A. Gleave, (Temporary Major) W. N. J. Clarke, (Temporary Major) H. N. Perkins, J. D. Cruickshank, M. P. H. Sayers, (Temporary Major) D. P. Stevenson, G. A. E. Harman, A. H. T. F. Fullerton, A. M. Pugh, and J. H. Taylor.

The appointments of Lieuts. M. F. X. Slattery, J. A. Allen, D. B. Jagger, W. MacK. McLennan, and G. M. Barling have been antedated to September 5, 1938, October 1, 1938, January 14, 1939, April 10, 1939, and July 28, 1939, respectively, under the provisions of Article 39, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, 1940, but not to carry pay and allowances prior to September 5, 1939, September 4, 1939, September 3, 1939, September 3, 1939, and September 3, 1939, respectively. Lieuts. M. F. X. Slattery, J. A. Allen, D. B. Jagger, W. A. Groom, F. J. Ingham, W. MacK. McLennan, G. M. Barling, and N. E. O'Neill to be Captains.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE

Flight Lieut. O. S. M. Williams to be Squadron Leader.

Flying Officers L. W. Davies, M. McLellan, and R. Maycock to be Flight Lieutenants.

A. F. Baldwyn has been granted a short service commission as Flying Officer for three years on the active list and has been seconded for duty to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The following to be Medical Officers with the relative rank of Flying Officer: Miss Bertha A. Briant, Mrs. Agnes L. J. Dovey, Miss Moyra I. Macnaughton-Jones, Miss Jean H. Morton.

AUXILIARY AIR FORCE: MEDICAL BRANCH

Flying Officer A. L. Cowan to be Flight Lieutenant.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE: MEDICAL BRANCH

To be Flight Lieutenants: M. P. Embrey, J. C. Gilson, M. G. Nelson.

Flying Officers R. T. Goodyear, N. S. Taggart, J. H. P. Gauvain, N. A. A. Cust, H. W. Whittingham, F. L. Patterson, D. M. Anderson, D. H. Fowler, D. D. Reid, J. R. Caldwell, and N. Jackson to be Flight Lieutenants.

Flying Officer L. O'N. Knox to be Flight Lieutenant. (Notification concerning this officer under the heading of Auxiliary Air Force in the *London Gazette* of October 8 is cancelled.)

To be Flying Officers: J. R. Belcher, L. H. Blakelock, J. M. Bowen, E. S. Brawn, R. H. Carpenter, I. A. Donaldson, J. B. Franklin, R. N. Grant, J. L. Hamilton, D. W. Higson, W. Huey, B. L. N. Morgan, I. Pierce-Williams, L. D. Rutter, A. F. Rutherford, A. L. Watson, A. L. Basham, F. Boyd, J. H. Browne, H. Cantor, J. E. Cawthorne, J. R. Graham, G. H. Grant, R. N. Harbinson, J. N. Loriag, R. A. C. Macnair, I. Mazure, W. R. K. M. Parry, I. C. B. Pearce, C. W. Petrie, A. H. Pritchard, B. J. O. Winfield, W. J. Lynd.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Captains F. H. Woods, J. E. Foley, A. G. P. Hardwick, M.C., and T. R. Snelling to be Brevet Majors, under the provisions of Article 168, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, 1940.

Captain E. Davies has ceased to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health.

LAND FORCES: EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

War Substantive Captain (temporary Major) W. G. E. Allen, from Temporary Commission, to be Lieutenant.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE

Colonel F. F. S. Smith has retired from the Service.

Lieut.-Colonel H. Horan-Brown to be Colonel.

Major B. R. Tandon to be Lieut.-Colonel.

COLONIAL MEDICAL SERVICE

The following appointments are announced: Sir Rupert Briercliffe, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H., Medical Adviser, West Indian Welfare Fund; F. C. Collingwood, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer, Gambia; P. F. de Caires, M.B., Ch.B., Assistant Medical Officer, Leprosy Hospital, British Guiana; S. G. Harrison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Senior Medical Officer, Sierra Leone; I. W. Mackishan, M.B., B.Ch., D.T.M. and H., Medical Officer, Uganda.

B.M.A.: Meetings of Branches and Divisions

KENYA BRANCH: MOMBASA DIVISION

At a meeting of the Mombasa Division held at Mombasa on August 21, with Dr. J. M. LISTON presiding, Captain M. COLE ROUS gave an interesting talk on "Threatened Diabetic Limb." This was followed by a discourse on ocular complications in diabetes by Dr. N. C. MANDALIA, who also demonstrated a case of diabetic cataract. Among those present were Drs. M. A. W. ROBERTS, F. R. LOCKHART, G. V. JUVEKAR, N. A. DOTIWALA, M. N. HAMIN, HARTLEY, S. D. KARVE, A. J. MENEZES, B. PINTO, C. M. VERNON, A. U. SHETH, and six other guests.

Postgraduate News

The Fellowship of Medicine announces that an M.R.C.P. course in chest diseases, limited to six postgraduates, will be held at Brompton Hospital on Mondays and Thursdays, at 3.30 p.m., from November 28 to December 20. Among other courses which will be arranged in the near future are neurology for M.R.C.P. candidates, consisting of demonstrations in the afternoons, and orthopaedics for Final F.R.C.S. candidates, consisting of demonstrations of cases on Saturday afternoons. Further details will be available shortly.

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE LECTURES.—At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, *Thurs.*, 4.30 p.m. Dr. A. Ninian Bruce: The Basis of Temperament.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W., *Mon.*, *Wed.*, and *Fri.*, 2.30 p.m. Dr. A. J. E. Cave: Arnott demonstrations of anatomical specimens.

VACANCIES

EXAMINING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The following vacant appointments are announced: Matlock (Derbyshire); Wellington (Salop). Applications to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Cleland House, Page Street, S.W.1, by November 19.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

The charge for inserting announcements under this head is 10s. 6d. This amount should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated with the name and address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than the first post Tuesday morning to ensure insertion in the current issue.

DEATH

MARSDEN.—On November 2, 1940, Arthur Whitehead Marsden, aged 41.

RELIEF OF DOCTORS IN RAIDED AREAS

Doctors who are feeling the strain of work in heavily raided areas are reminded that a number of their colleagues in more peaceful districts have generously suggested an exchange of practices for short periods. Doctors wishing to avail themselves of such offers should communicate with the Secretary of the British Medical Association.